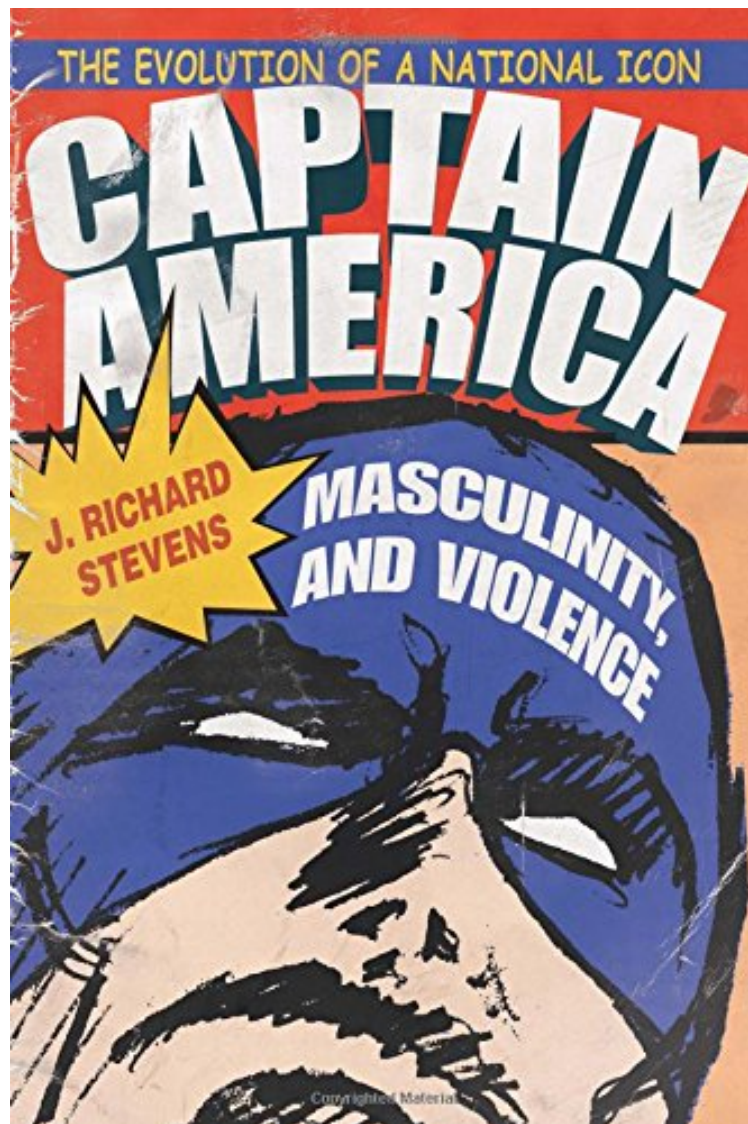


(Ebook pdf) Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence: The Evolution of a National Icon (Television and Popular Culture)

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J. Richard Stevens

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#1181532 in Books Stevens J Richard 2015-05-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x 1.05 x 6.231, 1.50 #File Name: 0815633955416 pages Captain America Masculinity and Violence The Evolution of a National Icon | File size: 33.Mb

J. Richard Stevens : Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence: The Evolution of a National Icon (Television and Popular Culture) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence: The Evolution of a National Icon (Television and Popular Culture):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Analysis of Captain America By John S. Lawrence I should disclose that I read this book in proof and wrote a blurb on the jacket. My colleague Robert Jewett and I have been thinking and writing about Captain America for several decades. This is the definitive book about the Captain's character and its many mutations, including the last decade in which Cap dropped out of the War on Terror and became a critic of of administration military policy. Stevens has worked from a vast database of comics texts, letters to the editors, and films. If you believe that you understand Captain America fully, you owe it to yourself to read this book and likely feel some embarrassment at what you didn't know. Stevens writes in a very steady, appreciative but critical voice. A model book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Popular culture as reflection of societal change By Earl Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence by J. Richard Stevens is a comprehensive academic, yet very readable, look at the changing ideas on masculinity and violence as presented through the character of Captain America. Very well researched and documented, this book takes Captain America through his various changes and looks closely at what they reflect about society's views as well as how it might also help to develop those views. From conservative to progressive, from anonymous to known, Cap's character always offers a view into what constitutes, in each era, a moral type of justice and even patriotism, though in some ways the patriotism becomes tempered with some reality rather than the rose-colored glasses of many types of patriotism. Whether you're a fan of Captain America or primarily interested in the intersection of popular culture with issues of gender, violence, politics and ethics, this book has something for you. Reviewed from a copy made available by the publisher via NetGalley. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and challenging By Anni I began reading this book because my teens are currently hooked on Cap and all the Avengers. I've never been a comic book fan, but I found it very interesting to read about the history of comics and especially how Captain America has evolved over time to reflect cultural values. This book is not light reading for the casually interested, though. I found the research presented to be insightful and challenging. Perhaps if I were more versed in the comic book genre, I would have understood more easily. Overall, though, a very interesting read.

Since 1940, Captain America has battled his enemies in the name of American values, and as those values have changed over time, so has Captain America's character. Because the comic book world fosters a close fan-creator dialogue, creators must consider their ever-changing readership. Comic book artists must carefully balance storyline continuity with cultural relevance. Captain America's seventy-year existence spans from World War II through the Cold War to the American War on Terror; beginning as a soldier unopposed to offensive attacks against foreign threats, he later becomes known as a defender whose only weapon is his iconic shield. In this way, Captain America reflects America's need to renegotiate its social contract and reinvent its national myths and cultural identity, all the while telling stories proclaiming an eternal and unchanging spirit of America. In *Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence*, Stevens reveals how the comic book hero has evolved to maintain relevance to America's fluctuating ideas of masculinity, patriotism, and violence. Stevens outlines the history of Captain America's adventures and places the unfolding storyline in dialogue with the comic book industry as well as America's varying political culture. Stevens shows that Captain America represents the ultimate American story: permanent enough to survive for nearly seventy years with a history fluid enough to be constantly reinterpreted to meet the needs of an ever-changing culture.

Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence reveals a shapeshifting mythic character responsive to national perils, creator sensibilities, ownership changes, and passionate fan letters. The deaths, rebirths, and transfigurations of old Cap are presented with outstanding clarity. (John Shelton Lawrence, co-author of *The Myth of the American Superhero* and *Captain America and the Crusade against Evil*) *Captain America, Masculinity and Violence* is the latest addition to a literature using Captain America as a way into the tightly entangled threads of American identity, righteous violence, and political legitimacy. Stevens is at his strongest when he weaves together character developments with changes at Marvel HQ; his archival work on industry newsletters and fan magazines uncovers fresh insights into the corporate underpinnings of the Marvel Universe. (Jason Dittmer, author of *'Captain America and the Nationalist Superhero'*) There hasn't been such a thorough treatment of Captain America done previously and that makes (this work) original. . The survey of previous scholarship in each chapter takes into account major theoretical voices such as Eco and cultural historians like Wright. This work . would be a great resource for students in courses dealing with comic books, popular culture, and/or American history. (Terrence Wandtke, author of *The Meaning of Superhero Comics Books*) Stevens provides a chronological character study of one of the most important comics superheroes to have emerged out of the 'Golden Age' of comics. This book employs a compelling political/cultural analysis of the character, as well as an 'industry history' of the series. ... Stevens accomplishes (his) goal in a thoroughly effective way, creating a study that is both profound in its exploration of its topic and engagingly readable. I can think of very few similar studies that match it, and none that are better. (Gary Hoppenstand, Michigan State University) It's about time for a book like this. Professor Stevens shows how and why Captain America is an icon that can transcend decades of political turmoil and social unrest. Captain America is no political stooge, but rather a living breathing example of cultural change in action as a storytelling device which this volume demonstrates. (Robert G.

Weiner, Popular Culture Librarian Texas Tech University and editor of *Captain America and the Struggle of the Superhero*) *Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence* is a fine piece of scholarship on a popular culture creation that requires no apology. It is also, and could and should be read as, an analysis of American history and social development over the past seventy years, with Captain America reflecting and resisting the country that made him-just as all of us Americans do in all our actions, repeatedly 'retconning' ourselves individually and collectively. (Jack David Eller, Anthropology Database) About the Author J. Richard Stevens is assistant professor in media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder.